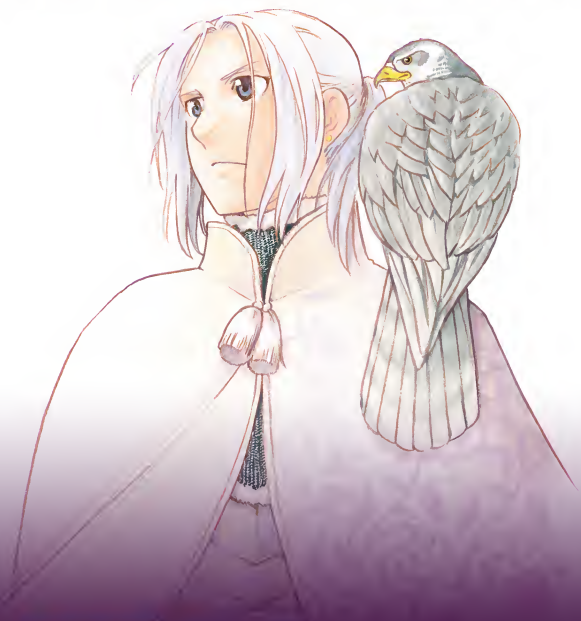


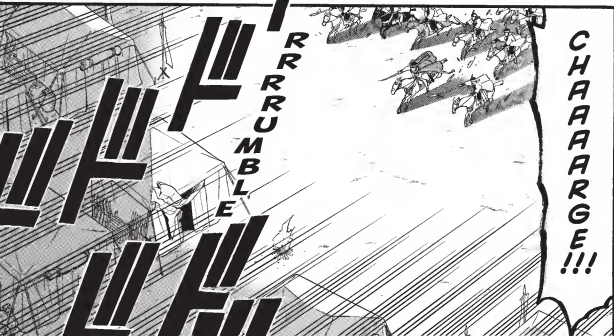
THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

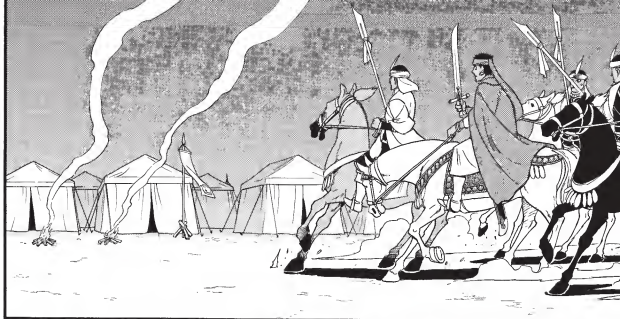


KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

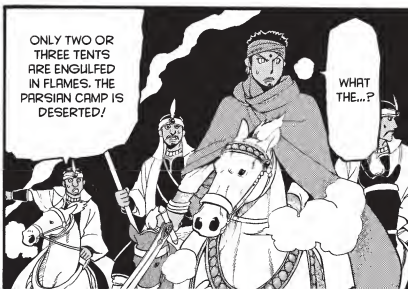
CHAPTER 54

YOSHIKI TANAKA
HIROMU ARAKAWA



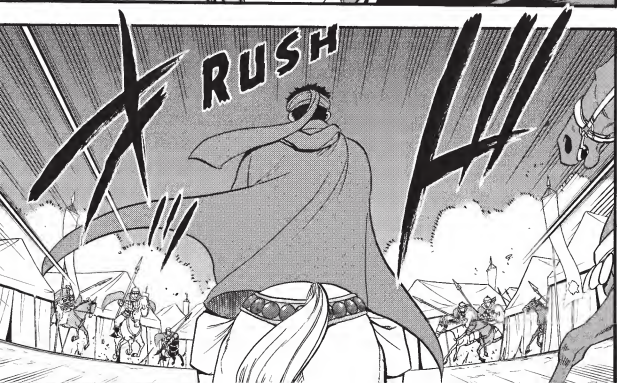
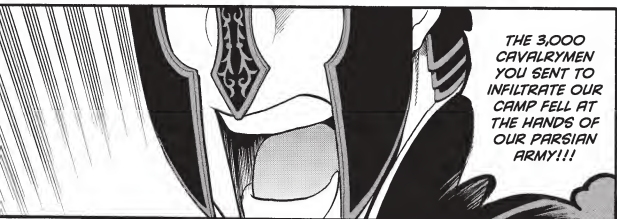


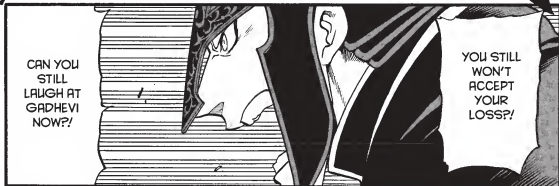
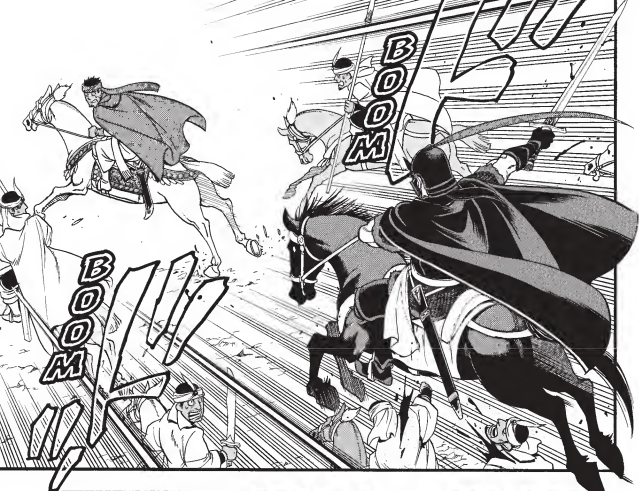
WHERE
IS MY
3,000-
MAN
VAN-
GUARD
?!



ONLY TWO OR
THREE TENTS
ARE ENGULFED
IN FLAMES. THE
PERSIAN CAMP IS
DESERTED!

WHAT
THE...?







ĀZĀT.....
WHAT
WILL THEY
DO FOR
WORK?

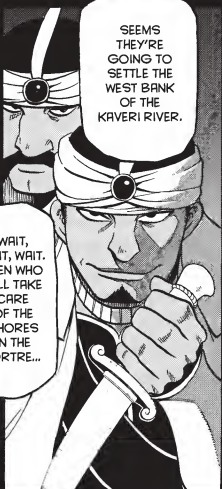
HE SAID THAT
WHEN THE
CAMPAIGN
ENDED, HE
WOULD MAKE
THE GHOLAMS
IN PESHAWAR
AZĀT.

TRULY
?

APPARENTLY
THE GHOLAMS
WILL BE FREED
TOO.

Chapter 54: Return of the Warrior

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

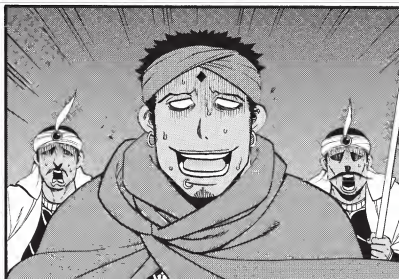
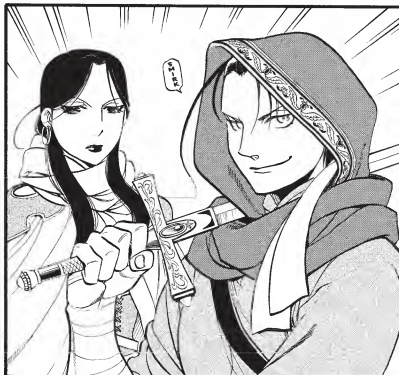
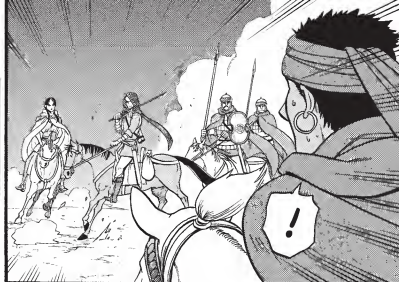


SEEMS
THEY'RE
GOING TO
SETTLE THE
WEST BANK
OF THE
KAVERI RIVER.

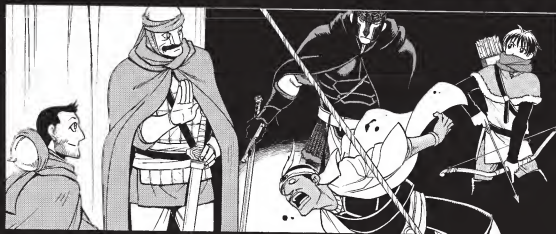
HIS HIGHNESS
ARSLAN
PROMISED IT
BEFORE THIS
CAMPAIGN.

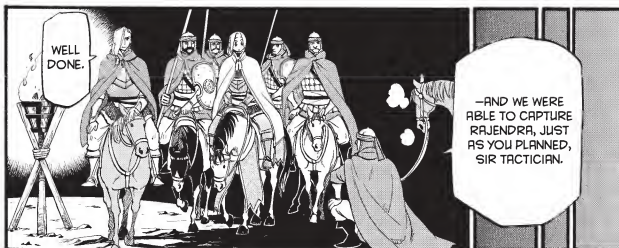
WAIT,
WAIT, WAIT.
THEN WHO
WILL TAKE
CARE
OF THE
CHORES
IN THE
FORTRE...

.....HOW
DID
THIS
HAPPEN
...?



THN





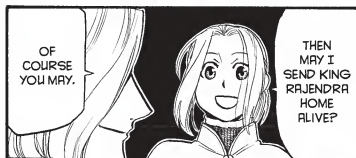
WELL
DONE.

—AND WE WERE
ABLE TO CAPTURE
RAJENDRA, JUST
AS YOU PLANNED,
SIR TACTICIAN.



NO, YOUR
HIGHNESS.
"NAIVE" IS A
WORD USED
WHEN YOU
NEGLECT TO
KILL SOMEONE
WHO SHOULD
BE KILLED.

AM
I NAIVE
?



OF
COURSE
YOU MAY.

THEN
MAY I
SEND KING
RAJENDRA
HOME
ALIVE?



I DO
NOT
WISH TO
KILL HIM.

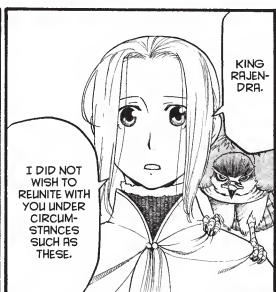
I CAN- NAR-
NOT SUS.
BRING
MYSELF
TO HATE
THAT
MAN.



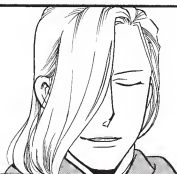
I WILL BE
PUTTING ON
A SOMEWHAT
ILL-NATURED
ACT TO DO SO. AT
FIRST, PLEASE
STAY SILENT
AND OBSERVE.



HOWEVER, HE
IS SOMEONE
WHO DOES
NOT LEARN HIS
LESSON THE
FIRST TIME. LET
US BE SURE TO
DRIVE THE POINT
HOME FOR HIM.



HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BECOME
A GUEST OF
THE PARSIAN
ARMY, AND
MAKE A TOUR OF
PARSIAN PLACES
OF INTEREST?



VERY
WELL.

I NOTICED
THAT YOU
MAJESTY
HAS BEEN
INTRIGUED
BY PARSIAN
LAND.

SINDHURA HAS
ONLY JUST LOST
MY FATHER. IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE,
THERE ARE STILL
MANY WHO
ARE LOYAL TO
GADHEVI!!



TH-TH-
THAT...
THAT WOULD
BE A PRO-
BLEM FOR
ME!!

YOU WILL
LIKELY
RUN OUT
OF PLACES
TO SEE IN,
OH, TWO
YEARS.

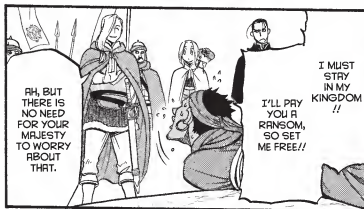
AFTER
THAT, I
THINK YOU
COULD
LEISURELY
RETURN
TO YOUR
COUNTRY.



AH, BUT
THERE IS
NO NEED
FOR YOUR
MAJESTY
TO WORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

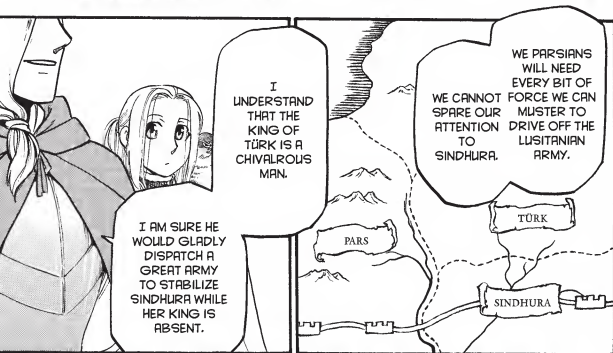
I MUST
STAY
IN MY
KINGDOM
!!

I'LL PAY
YOU A
RANSOM,
SO SET
ME FREE!!



LET US SEND
AN ENVOY TO
THE KINGDOM
OF TÜRK TO
REQUEST REIN-
FORCEMENTS.

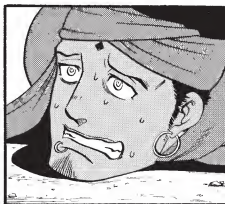






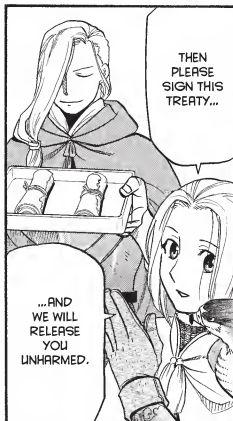
PRINCE
ARSLAN!
I APOLO-
GIZE!

HAVE
MERCY
!!



PLEASE,
I'VE
SEEN
THE
ERROR
OF MY
WAYS
!!

I WAS
TOO
GREEDY
!!



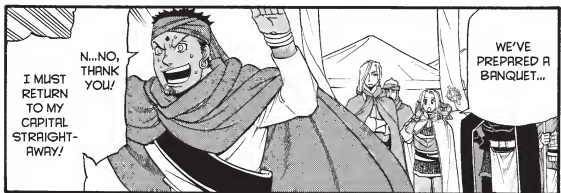
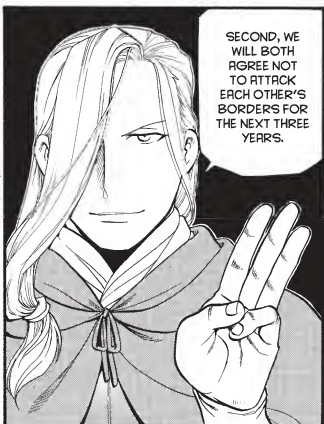
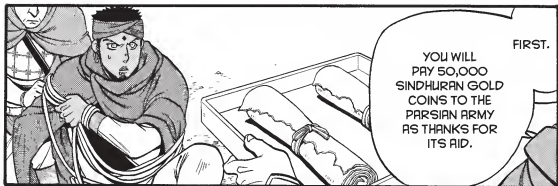
THEN
PLEASE
SIGN THIS
TREATY...

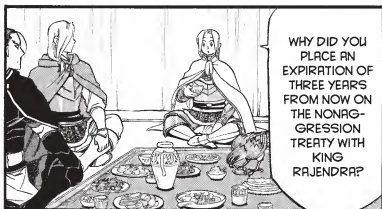
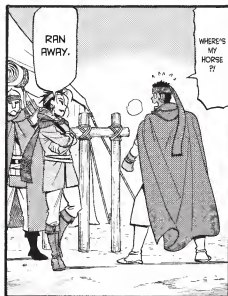
...AND
WE WILL
RELEASE
YOU
UNHARMED.

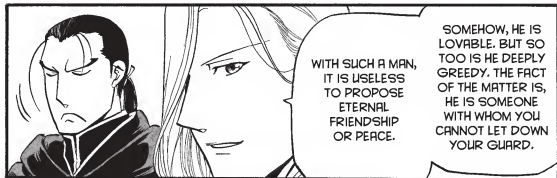


YES!
YES!
YES!!

WILL YOU
BE LOYAL
TO OUR
ALLIANCE
THIS TIME?

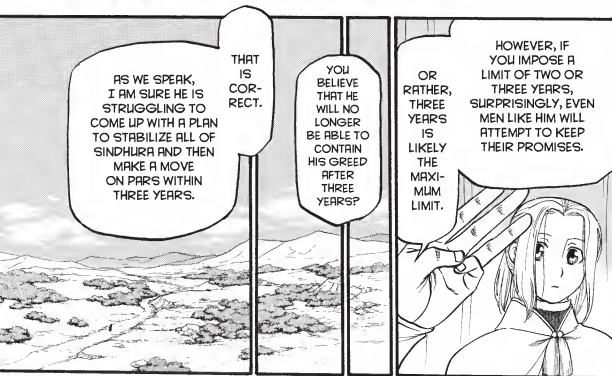






WITH SUCH A MAN,
IT IS USELESS
TO PROPOSE
ETERNAL
FRIENDSHIP
OR PEACE.

SOMEHOW, HE IS
LOVABLE. BUT SO
TOO IS HE DEEPLY
GREEDY. THE FACT
OF THE MATTER IS,
HE IS SOMEONE
WITH WHOM YOU
CANNOT LET DOWN
YOUR GUARD.



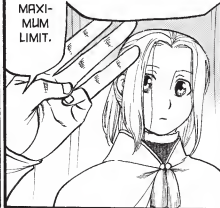
AS WE SPEAK,
I AM SURE HE IS
STRUGGLING TO
COME UP WITH A PLAN
TO STABILIZE ALL OF
SINDHURA AND THEN
MAKE A MOVE
ON PARS WITHIN
THREE YEARS.

THAT
IS
CORRECT.

YOU
BELIEVE
THAT HE
WILL NO
LONGER
BE ABLE TO
CONTAIN
HIS GREED
AFTER
THREE
YEARS?

OR
RATHER,
THREE
YEARS
IS
LIKELY
THE
MAXI-
MUM
LIMIT.

HOWEVER, IF
YOU IMPOSE A
LIMIT OF TWO OR
THREE YEARS,
SURPRISINGLY, EVEN
MEN LIKE HIM WILL
ATTEMPT TO KEEP
THEIR PROMISES.



AS
YOU
SAY,
YOUR
HIGHNESS
...



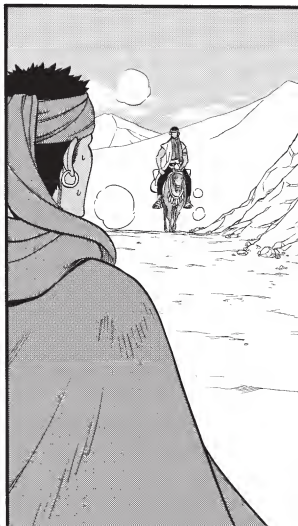
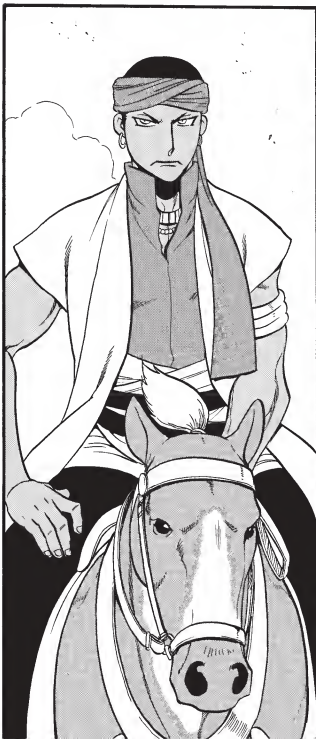
THEN I MUST
DRIVE OFF THE
LUSITANIANS
AND RETAKE THE
CAPITAL BY THEN.

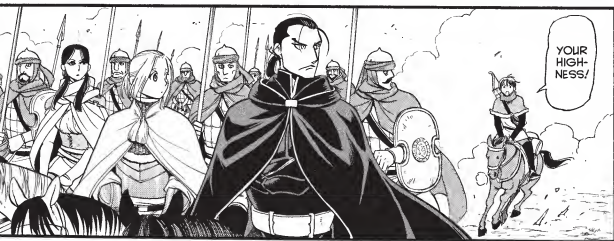
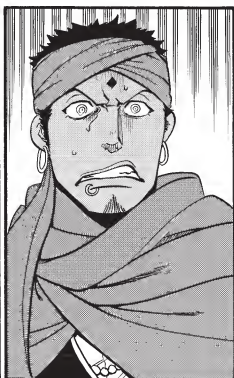
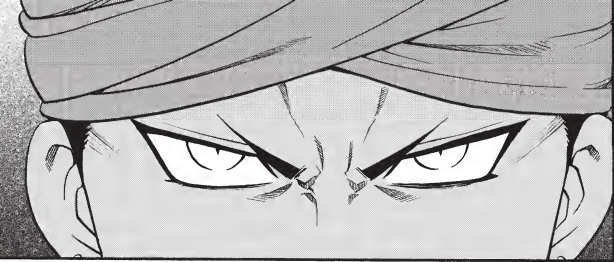
I HAVE TO
AT LEAST
GET MY
HANDS ON
A HORSE...

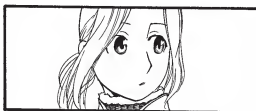
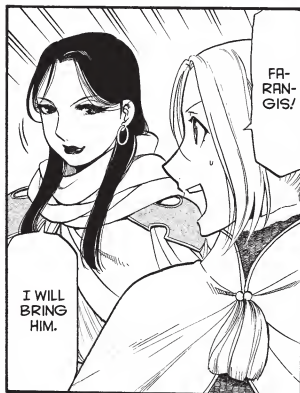


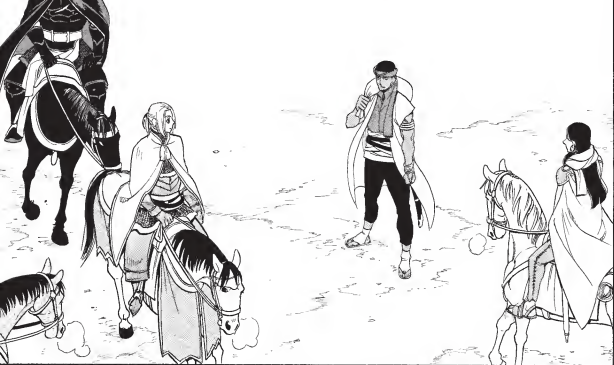
DAMMIT...!
WHERE DID
MY MEN
GO?!

IF I RUN
INTO ANY OF
GADHEVI'S
SUPPORTERS
OUT HERE IN
THE WILDER-
NESS, THEY
WILL.....









YOU
CAME!

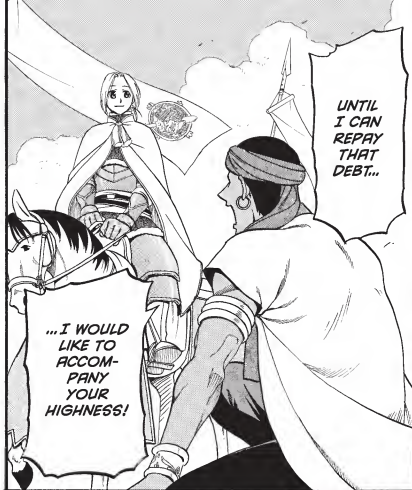
JAS-
WANT!

I CANNOT
SERVE THE
CROWN
PRINCE OF
PARS!!

I
AM A
SIND-
HURAN
!

IF EVER
PARS AND
SINDHURA
COME TO
WAR, I WILL
FOLLOW MY
HOMELAND
AND FIGHT
PARS!!



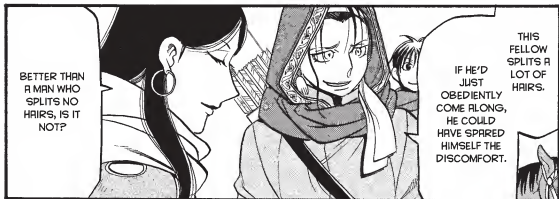
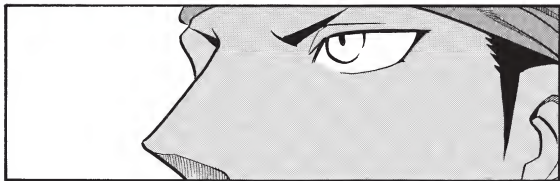


UNTIL
I CAN
REPAY
THAT
DEBT...

...I WOULD
LIKE TO
ACCOM-
PANY
YOUR
HIGHNESS!



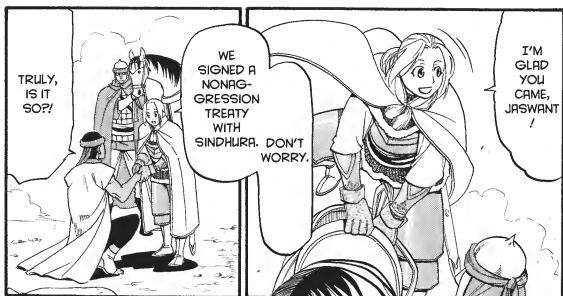
HOWEVER,
YOUR HIGHNESS
ARSLAN HAS
SAVED MY
LIFE ON THREE
SEPARATE
OCCASIONS!

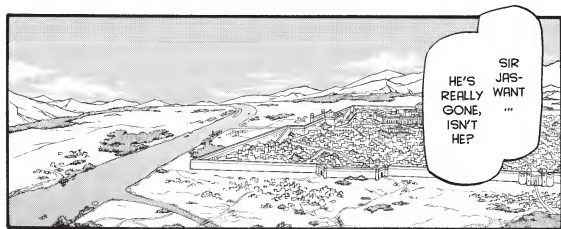
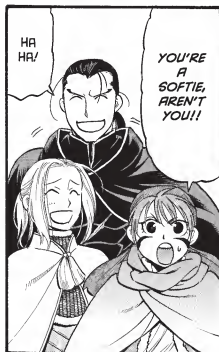
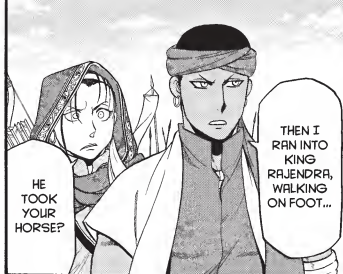


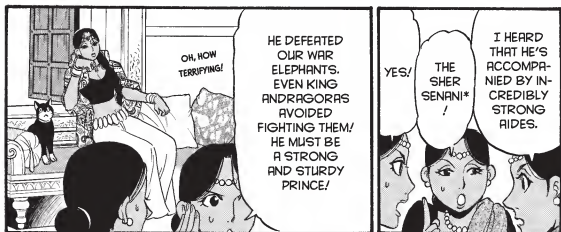
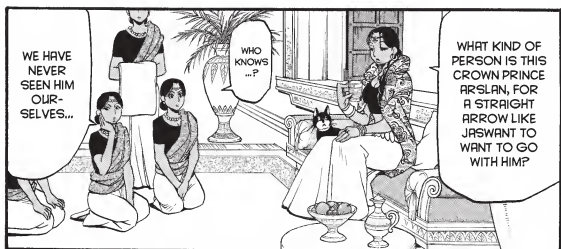
BETTER THAN
A MAN WHO
SPLITS NO
HAIRS, IS IT
NOT?

THIS
FELLOW
SPLITS A
LOT OF
HAIRS.

IF HE'D
JUST
OBEDIENTLY
COME ALONG,
HE COULD
HAVE SPARED
HIMSELF THE
DISCOMFORT.







*Ferocious Tiger General.





LADY
SALIMA!

JAS-
WANT.



I AM HERE
TO SAY
GOODBYE
TO YOU,
LADY
SALIMA.

I AM A
LOWLY MAN
WHO HAS
LOST HIS
MASTER...
I CERTAINLY
CANNOT
REMAIN
AT THIS
MANOR
FOREVER.



Y...
YES.

THAT
BAG...
ARE YOU
GOING
SOME-
WHERE?

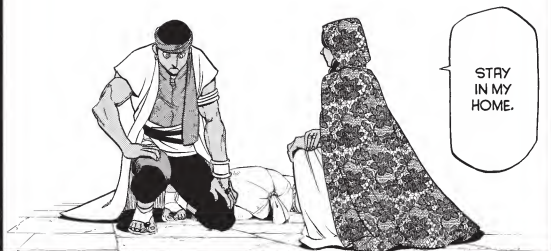


THIS
MANOR
THAT I
INHERITED
FROM MY
FATHER IS
TOO BIG
FOR ME.

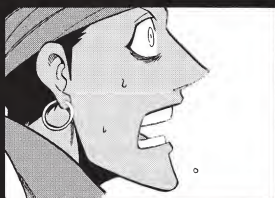
ONE
LOWLY MAN
LIVING HERE
WOULD NOT
OFFEND ME
IN ANY WAY.



YOU
COULD
JUST
STAY.



STAY
IN MY
HOME.



YOU ARE
LIKE A
BROTHER
TO ME,
JASWANT.

DON'T BE
RESERVED.
WE HAVE
BEEN
TOGETHER
SINCE
WE WERE
SMALL.



...HOW-
EVER....

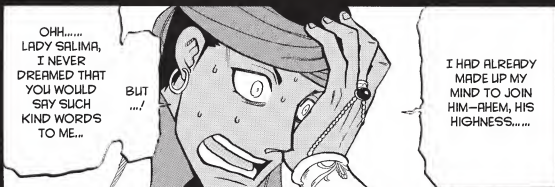
... YOUR
WORDS
ARE MORE
THAN
I DESERVE
.....



I WAS
STEEL-
ING
MYSELF
TO
LEAVE...

...TO
WORK
FOR
HIM...

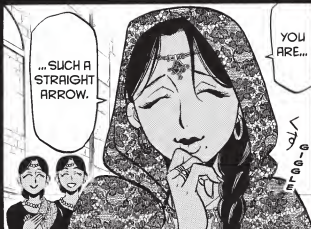
I WAS
ALREADY
ASKED
BY HIS
HIGHNESS
ARSLAN...



OH...
LADY SALIMA,
I NEVER
DREAMED THAT
YOU WOULD
SAY SUCH
KIND WORDS
TO ME...

BUT
...!

I HAD ALREADY
MADE UP MY
MIND TO JOIN
HIM—AHEM, HIS
HIGHNESS....



... SUCH A
STRAIGHT
ARROW.

YOU
ARE...



WAIT, I
ALREADY
...

I AM
SO
GRATE-
FUL...



I HEARD
THAT YOU
WEPT FOR
FATHER.



I DO NOT
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY....

I WAS UNABLE
TO PROTECT
HIS HIGHNESS
PRINCE GADHEVI,
OR SIR
MAHENDRA, AND
NOW I CANNOT
ANSWER YOUR
WARM OFFER...



THAT IS
MORE
THAN
ENOUGH.

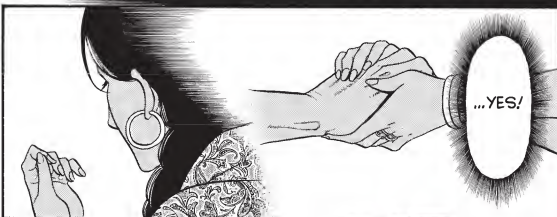
THANK
YOU.



IF YOU EVER
COME HOME,
TELL ME
TALES OF
FOREIGN
LANDS.
WON'T
YOU,
JAS-
WANT
?



FOLLOW
THE PATH
THAT YOU
BELIEVE
IN.



...YES!



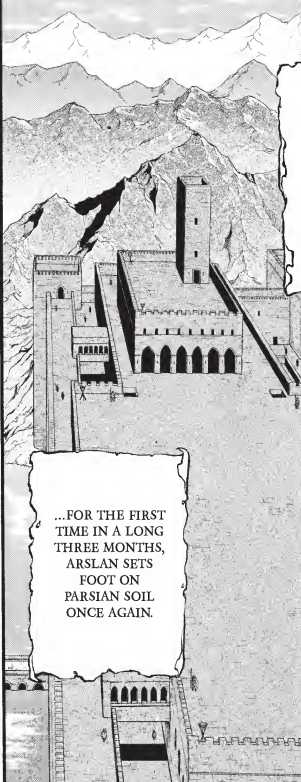
YES,
IT
WILL.

IT
WILL BE
LONELY
HERE.



HIS
HIGH-
NESS
ARSLAN
HAS
RE-
TURNED!

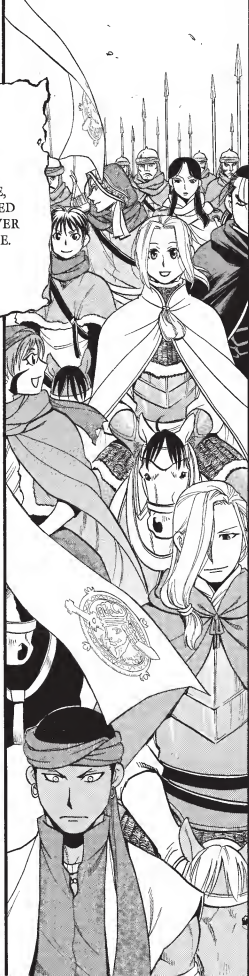
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!



...FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A LONG
THREE MONTHS,
ARSLAN SETS
FOOT ON
PARSIAN SOIL
ONCE AGAIN.

IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE THIRD
MONTH OF
THE YEAR
321 OF THE
PARSIAN
CALENDAR...

AND SO,
WITH A NEW
SUBORDINATE,
ARSLAN CROSSED
THE KAVERI RIVER
A SECOND TIME.



...
EVERY-
ONE'S
GONE...

To be continued...